

Ref: OU# 05-044

Phoenix – Goodyear Airport Area/Western Avenue Plume Community Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 2004
6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.
Goodyear City Hall, Room 117
190 N. Litchfield Road
Goodyear, Arizona

MINUTES

CAG members present: Diane Krone, Sheri Lauritano, Sam Wallick

Members absent: Jim and Jackie Ewing; Pam Fischer; Henri Gauthier; Tom Jones; Susan Kagan; Keith Longley; Richard Nauman

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Monica Mascareno, Community Involvement Coordinator; Lou Sandoval, ADEQ Project Manager; Cathy O'Connell, ADEQ Project Manager; Larry Meier, ADEQ Hydrologist

EPA Staff in attendance: Mary Aycock, Project Manager; Andria Benner, Project Manager; Jim Sickles, Project Manager; Mike Montgomery, Section Chief;

Members of the public present: Paula Ilardo; Darryl Henning; Phil Whitmore; Marilyn De Rosa; Dave Irwanski; David Day; Kevin Murdock, CH2M Hill; Lantz Indergard, ARCADIS

The meeting began at 6:38 p.m.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided upon at the meeting:

1. Call to Order / Introduction of CAG Applicants

Monica Mascareno, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and briefly described the purpose of a CAG. Ms. Mascareno turned it over to Diane Krone, CAG Co-Chair, who ran the rest of the meeting. Ms. Krone introduced herself and asked all CAG members, staff members and members of the public who were present to introduce themselves. During the introductions, EPA Project Managers Andria Benner and Jim Sickles announced that they will no longer be working with the PGA North and South sites; it was announced that Mary Aycock will be the new Project Manager for those sites.

2. Acceptance and / or changes to April 23, 2003, August 13, 2003 and November 19, 2003 CAG meeting minutes

A quorum of CAG members was not met, so this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

3. Discussion and voting on new CAG Members

A quorum of CAG members was not met, so this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Discussion and voting on new CAG Co-Chair

A quorum of CAG members was not met, so this topic was tabled until the next meeting.

5. Site overview and status

Andria Benner, EPA Project Manager, presented a slide show (corresponding handouts were available at the meeting). Ms. Benner offered a brief description of the location of the three sites (PGA North, PGA South, and Western Avenue Plume) and stated that the media areas of concern at the sites were the groundwater, soil gas, and the soils/source areas. She then began her review of the last year's events for the PGA North Site; the last CAG meeting was held nearly one year ago. Ms. Benner attributed the unplanned suspension of the CAG meetings to an internal EPA enforcement process with Crane Company, which should soon be coming to an end. She added that a settlement document is expected to be composed soon, as a result of the negotiations.

Ms. Benner outlined the last year's activities at the site:

- Last summer, a Phase II groundwater investigation lead by EPA was completed, and a subsequent report was also completed.
- The City of Goodyear potential conduit well (old COG-2) was investigated and was shut down in June of 2003.
- Aquifer testing and pump tests at MW-20 are on-going.
- An EPA subsurface soil gas investigation was completed for the north portion of the facility, and for the adjacent three parcels, in August of 2003. A report was completed in January of 2004.
- Outdoor and indoor air sampling was conducted at or near several buildings in September of 2003.

Ms. Benner described the activities that are currently on-going:

- A soil vapor extraction (SVE) system was restarted with a granulated activated carbon treatment unit in May of 2004.
- The main drywell area investigation of soil, soil gas and groundwater contamination is planned to continue.
- A bench-scale study is underway to evaluate the potential for subsurface in-situ treatment.
- A total of seven potential conduit wells have been closed.
- The groundwater monitoring network of wells was evaluated and a new groundwater flow model is under development.

Jim Sickles, EPA Project Manager, described the activity related to the soil vapor extraction (SVE) system in more detail:

- The SVE system operated at the facility for about four years (1994-1998) in the past. The system was shut down due to operational problems.
- Sampling in 2002 showed that soil gas was present in the vadose zone.
- Crane Company ultimately agreed to restart the SVE system.
- In May of 2004, Crane began retrofitting the SVE system and started pilot tests on the new granulated activated carbon (GAC) treatment unit; the thermal oxidizer unit, which could potentially release dioxins, had been disconnected from the system.
- More than 650 lbs. of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been removed since the May 2004 startup. It is planned to keep running and monitoring the system.
- Several soil vapor monitoring wells, located around the facility, have extraction wells next to them to monitor the soil gas concentrations near the SVE system.

Mr. Sickles stated that an additional source area investigation is planned:

- Fourteen soil borings will be installed to 160 feet to collect soil, soil gas and groundwater samples.
- That data will help determine if the source of subsurface vapors is from contaminated soils or groundwater or both.
- The results will be used to expand or modify the SVE system and determine whether other in-situ technologies will speed up the cleanup.

Mr. Sickles also described the indoor sampling that was conducted by Crane Co. in September of 2003, due to results of soil vapor sampling conducted earlier that summer:

- Indoor air sampling detected no Site contaminants at levels of concern in the buildings that were sampled.
- Characteristics in the air in the winter vs. in the summer may differ, so a follow-up sampling of indoor air is planned for January of 2005.
- Mr. Sickles presented a graphic displaying the locations of all the indoor air samples collected from nearby buildings in September of 2003.

Ms. Benner continued the presentation on the last year's events at the Site. She re-iterated to the audience that the primary groundwater contaminants at this Site are trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchlorate, and that treatment of the groundwater continues:

- The groundwater treatment continues to remove TCE and perchlorate.
- More than 36,000 lbs. of TCE have been removed since pump-and-treat began in 1994.
- More than 37 lbs. of perchlorate have been removed since the treatment at the City of Goodyear's wastewater treatment plant began in 2003.

Ms. Benner presented a graphic illustrating a conduit well, and continued to describe the closure of some potential conduit wells:

- An updated well inventory was completed in September of 2004.
- Potential conduit wells have been identified.
- Seven wells were investigated and abandoned in 2004.
- Additional wells will be investigated and closed in the future.

Ms. Benner continued to describe the current groundwater monitoring and investigation at the Site:

- The shallow aquifer TCE-contaminated plume continues to expand to the northeast.
- The extent of deeper aquifer contamination is still not defined.
- The existing groundwater monitoring system has been re-evaluated; that analysis continued through 2004.
- Potential locations for new monitor wells and new extraction wells were identified during 2004.

Ms. Benner displayed a series of graphics depicting the following:

- The upper three groundwater units
- Changes in shallow aquifer plumes over time
- A conceptual extent of TCE contamination in Subunit-C in vicinity MW-20 in 2002
- Conceptual Extent of TCE and perchlorate contamination in the deep aquifer in 2004
- The location of key nearby wells

Ms. Benner concluded her presentation by discussing drinking water protection, and priorities for the future related to the Site:

- EPA and Crane Co. continue quarterly monitoring of drinking water supply wells near the facility. Monitoring is also conducted by water suppliers.
- Crane Co. continues to sample key wells more frequently, as directed by EPA.

Priorities for the future:

- Continue to investigate contaminant migration in the source area (facility) and northern end of the plume
- Install additional monitoring wells and extraction wells to control the migration and to further define the extent of contamination, and to develop a new groundwater model
- Complete the investigation of the extent of soil gas and other contamination in the source area.
- Continue the operation of the SVE system with GAC
- Continue the removal of TCE and perchlorate from the groundwater
- Continue to inform the community of new information
- Continue to brief the CAG and mail out fact sheets

6. Upcoming site activities for PGA North

This portion of the meeting was originally scheduled for after the break. At the end of Ms. Benner's presentation (agenda item no. 5) Ms. Benner introduced Lantz Indergard of ARCADIS, a contractor for Crane Co., the responsible party, to speak on the upcoming activities planned for PGA North. Mr. Indergard displayed graphics and further described the new SVE system and the results of the pilot tests. He discussed various activities planned by ARCADIS in detail. He also answered various technical questions from CAG members and other members of the public.

7. CAG members, staff and members of the public paused for a brief break.

8. Question and Answer session

Ms. Krone called the meeting back to order after a ten minute break. She stated her serious concern about the enlargement of the plume at PGA North, and asked how that could be possible. Ms. Benner confirmed that it is a matter of serious concern; she explained the migration from the upper aquifer and re-iterated what is currently being done to address this. Ms. Krone also declared her frustration because she felt that the responsible party has been "dragging their feet" at the expense of those who live near the Site. Ms. Krone added that it is a shame that lawsuits have to occur in order for something to be done, and meanwhile, contamination continues to infiltrate the drinking water.

David Day, CAG applicant, asked if the staff is able to comment on the status of the potential litigation. Ms. Benner responded that she couldn't comment, but wanted to emphasize that EPA is very committed to following through with making Crane do what is appropriate and proper, in reference to the Site, and that they have driven that point home very forcefully with Crane.

In response to a question from Marilyn De Rosa, representing the City of Avondale, Ms. Benner listed all contractors involved with the Site cleanup and oversight: Crane Co. has contracted with Geomatrix and ARCADIS; EPA coordinates with Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Department of Water Resources, City of Goodyear, and more recently, have initiated coordination with the City of Avondale. CH2MHill, is EPA's primary contractor. EPA also obtains technical support from the Army Corps of Engineers, (out of Omaha, Nebraska) and EPA's ADA Oklahoma groundwater laboratory.

There were various questions and answers regarding the specifics of the status and the future plans for clean up at the Site from CAG members and some audience members.

9. Call to the Public

Comments from the Public were addressed during the question and answer session (item 8) regarding the status of the cleanup at the Site.

10. Future Meeting Plans / Agenda Discussion

Ms. Krone suggested that as per the CAG charter, and for the benefit of the public, CAG meetings should be held at least quarterly. She suggested that a campaign be executed to find out which current CAG members wish to remain on the board, and will follow up with a letter to all the current CAG members. Cathy O'Connell, ADEQ Project Manager, spoke on behalf of Dr. Fred Scott, CAG applicant, who was not able to attend the meeting, and stated that he would like to see that CAG meetings are held more frequently. Ms. O'Connell also informed the CAG that Robert Smith, CAG applicant, has changed his mind about becoming a member, and Jeff Wright, CAG applicant, was too busy to attend this meeting, but it is not certain whether he will pursue CAG membership.

A tentative date for the next CAG meeting was set for Thursday, February 3, 2005. Ms. Krone suggested that an item on the agenda for this meeting include a discussion and update of CAG membership.

11. Adjournment

Ms. Krone adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

